



# **PARK RULES & SAFETY TIPS**

# Be a friend of the parks. Help ensure a safe, enjoyable experience for yourself and others.



















### **General Rules**

Read and obey the posted hours for parks. Drive and park only in designated paved areas. Off-road driving is prohibited.

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted except in designated facilities such as golf clubhouses.

Please obey existing laws by keeping your pet on a leash and picking up waste. Report violations to Metro Animal services at 502/363-6609.

Fishing is limited to licensed patrons, Gaspowered boats are not allowed; trolling motors are allowed in approved areas only.

No hunting, trapping, or removal of natural resources such as rocks, plants and flowers.

To reserve picnic pavilions, athletic fields and other facilities, call 502/456-8171.

Charcoal cooking grills are available for use in some parks; you may provide your own. Please properly extinguish charcoal and fire. Do not place hot coals in trash receptacles.

Please take your trash with you or deposit it in trash receptacles.

Horses are permitted only on designated bridle paths or polo fields.

Helmets are required for cyclists, skaters and non-motorized scooter users under age 18. The Louisville Extreme Park requires helmets for all users.

Mountain biking is permitted only on designated trails.

Vending, advertising or commercial photography requires a permit from Metro Parks.

Report graffiti and maintenance concerns to MetroCall at 311 or 502/574-5000.

If you see criminal activity in progress, call Metro Police at 502/574-7111. For emergencies, call 911.

Do you have guestions? Call 502/456-8100 or email parks@louisvilleky.gov

## **Bicycling and Skating Tips**

Wear properly fitted safety equipment that is appropriate to your sport, including helmets and pads. A helmet, worn correctly, can reduce the risk of serious head injury by as much as 88 percent!

These activities are more hazardous at night. If you must be out at night, stay in lighted areas and wear reflective clothing and/or safety lights.

Bicyclists: When on park roads, obey all traffic laws. "Take the lane" when necessary for your safety, but allow automobiles to pass at other times.

## **Driving Tips**

Please obey posted speed limits and watch carefully for all park users, especially children, pedestrians, bicyclists and in-line skaters.

Keep your vehicle on designated, paved surfaces.

Don't block walking paths or trails with your vehicle.

Please remember that bicyclists have equal rights and responsibilities on all roads. They are legally required to use roadways.

### **Living Things Tips**

Know your surroundings and be observant. Use a continual sweeping glance when visiting unfamiliar areas.

Wear an effective insect repellant, especially near dawn or dusk. The best repellants contain DEET (N.N-diethylm-toluamide). For adults, use 30% DEET; for children, use 10% or less.

If you're stung, pull out the stinger, being careful not to squeeze the poison sac, and apply ice. If your reaction to the bite is severe, seek medical assistance.

Check for ticks after time outdoors. If you find one, gently pull it out with tweezers, being sure to get the head. It is wise to then follow-up with your doctor.

Avoid likely snake habitats, such as brush piles, debris mounds, logjams and root systems. Keep your hands and feet where you can see them at all times. If you see a snake, leave it alone and slowly back away.

Learn to identify and avoid poison ivy and other poisonous plants.

# **Playground Tips**

Please supervise the children you are responsible for while they are on park playgrounds.

Playgrounds are checked regularly, but damage can happen between inspections. Report any damage, chipped paint or hazardous equipment to MetroCall at 311 or 502/574-5000.

Children should not wear clothing with hoods or exposed drawstrings while using playgrounds.

### **Sledding Tips**

Sledding is permitted only on designated hills when the "Sledding Hill Open" sign is displayed.

Only use devices designed for sledding.

Dress in layers, so you can remove one layer without risking frostbite. Several thin layers are warmer than one bulky layer.

Make sure you have good visibility during your descent - don't face backwards, and make sure hats and scarves don't obscure your vision.

Don't drink alcohol before sledding; it impairs your ability to use good judgment and causes your body to lose heat more rapidly.

Don't stand too close to fire barrels; they are hot and can catch clothing on fire.

Make sure you're with someone who knows your name and can contact your family in an emergency.

### **Trail Tips**

Plan ahead and know trail lengths so you can finish using the trail before dark.

Staying on marked trails minimizes the chance that you will get lost, prevents soil erosion, and protects undergrowth.

Bring water and snacks, if necessary.

If possible, carry a cell phone for emergencies.

On multi-use trails, remember that slower traffic has the right-of-way, downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic, and you should stay as far to the right side of the trail as is comfortable.

# **ABOUT THIS PARK**



## **George Rogers Clark Park**

John and Ann Clark, their children and servants left Caroline County, Virginia in 1784, on a journey west down the Monongahela River to Kentucky. They were driven by opportunities in the new land and a reunion with their son, George Rogers Clark. He had obtained rights to 400 acres in present-day Shelby County and another 256 acres on Beargrass Creek in Louisville. This land came to be known as Mulberry Hill, and was acquired in anticipation of the Clark family's arrival.

A 1785 deed mentions the new Clark home in Louisville. It was a two-story log house with two rooms below, two rooms above, and two more rooms in the attic, with stone chimneys at each end. It was considered one of the finest estates in the area. The property had a number of outbuildings attached and overlooked the town from its position on the property.

Louisville at the time was made up of 100 or so log cabins and frame houses, with its own retail store and at least one school.

The home at Mulberry Hill expanded as the community around it grew, becoming a social and cultural center in the area. By the late 18th century the family was well-established in Louisville. The Clark children married and

continued to settle the town; daughter Lucy's home, built around 1790, was Locust Grove.

By 1799 both Clark parents had died and been buried in Mulberry Hill's family plot, still existent within the park. Son George Rogers Clark temporarily retired to the property until moving to a permanent home in Clarksville, Indiana. Son William inherited the estate and managed it, as well as extensive family interests further west, while he traveled. William also settled in Clarksville, selling much of his land to brother Jonathan, who had moved to a farm near Mulberry Hill.

Upon both his brothers' deaths, Isaac Clark inherited and farmed the property, but at age 76 and with the enacting of the Emancipation Proclamation decided he could no longer work the land. He bequeathed Mulberry Hill to Dr. William Clark, who after Isaac's death reinterred the son and much of his family (including General George Rogers Clark) into the recently-opened Cave Hill Cemetery. The graves of John, Ann and grandson William were not moved and remain on the property today.

Mulberry Hill was a productive farm for several generations, and over 50 years the buildings John Rogers and his children had built weathered dismantling, different

owners, relic hunters and at least one attack by Native Americans.

By 1911 little of the Clark's original home was left, and in June of 1917 Camp Zachary Taylor, an Army housing and training facility, was established in the Poplar Level Road area, including Mulberry Hill. What remained of the plantation was demolished and the spring that fed the farm was filled in. A cypress tree that, legend has it, dates to the time of John and Ann Clark's residency, marks the old spring's location. In the Filson Historical Society's collection is a piece of log from the Clarks' original house, the last trace of one of America's most significant historic homes.

After the end of World War I, Camp Taylor was disassembled, and in June 1921 approximately 44 acres of the land was transferred from the Federal Government to the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Louisville. The land had been purchased by members of the Ballard/Thruston family, descendants of the Clarks, and was presented to the city as a memorial to the achievements of General George Rogers Clark.

(Special thanks to the Filson Historical Society)

George Rogers Clark Park www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/parks/clark/